

Matt. 18: 21-35. (2) The Mission of the Seventy, Luke 10: 1-16.

Sunday: (1) The Prudent Refusal, John 7: 1-9. (2) The Samaritan Inhospitability, Luke 9: 51-56. (3) The Three Aspirants, Luke 9: 57-62. (4) The Ten Lepers, Luke 17: 11-19.

Bible Study by Topics

J. R. Miller.

There is a scientific study of the Bible—the study of it as a book. This is important. It is marvelous what light from a thousand sources is made to shine on the Holy Scriptures to illumine the pages. Just now men are uncovering old Assyrian cities which have been buried away for centuries, and in the ancient libraries are finding fresh confirmation of biblical records. Thus exploration, research, the world's finest scholarship and the wisdom of the wise, all combine to make the meaning of every word of the Bible plain. We should take advantage of all available help in the understanding of the sacred words.

But there is another study of the Bible which is even more important for our spiritual benefit. Countless thousands who have never known anything of the Holy Book as literature have yet found in it the treasure of life. They have never mastered it book by book, but they have had a key wherewith to open its storehouse, finding therein divine revealings, heavenly comforts, promises for life's way, counsels for every point of duty and perplexity. However we may learn to know the Bible in its character as a book, we need most of all to know it as the word of God, and to learn to find in it bread for our soul's hunger.

There are several ways of studying the Bible for spiritual profit. One is the topical method. Take a particular subject and find from all parts of the Scripture all that bears upon it or will throw any light on it. For example, take God's forgiveness. There are many superficial notions held on this subject. Many make it altogether too easy a matter to be forgiven, having no thought of the divine holiness, or of the real meaning of sin. Trace the subject through the scriptures, using a concordance and a text book, and getting the light of all the great passages on it. The result of such a study will be a deepened sense of the awfulness and the guilt of sin, a new vision of the holiness of God, a fresh impression of the meaning of the cross, and then a wonderful view of the fulness and completeness of the forgiveness which God bestows upon all who confess their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Redeemer.

Or take a series of studies on the character of God—his holiness, his love, his grace and his fatherly care. Or find out what the Bible has to say about the Christian life—what it is to be a Christian, the Christian's privileges, duties and responsibilities. The promises of the Bible may be sought out and gathered into clusters. Special studies of great interest and profit will be found in looking up such words as peace, joy, hope, faith, love.

This logical method of Bible-reading yields valuable results if it is pursued reverently and thoroughly. It enables us to see the many sides of truth and thus to get a better conception of it, for as a rule no one text shows the whole of any inspired teaching. Take, for example, the word "Peace"—one of the most precious words in the Bible. St. Paul tell us that "being justified by faith, we have peace with God." This is a wonderful privilege of the Christian—peace with God, reconciliation, nothing between him and God's love. But this is not the only phase of the Christian's peace described in the Scriptures. Elsewhere St. Paul speaks of the peace of God guarding the Christian's mind, of the peace of God ruling in his life. Jesus left as a legacy to his friends his own peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you." There are many other phases of this same blessing which a tracing of the word through the Scriptures will reveal.

The same is true of every great thought and teaching of the Scriptures. Wrong views are often held by superficial Bible readers because they have taken their impression from only a single verse instead of getting all the light on the subject which they could find in the whole book.

This topical method is commended to all young people who would understand the teachings of the word of God. A concordance and a Bible text-book are the only helps needed. The concordance shows all the passages in which the word itself occurs. Besides this, there usually are other passages which treat of the topic and these a good text-book will indicate. It is profitable also to follow out in a reference Bible the various references for each verse turned to, as oftentimes these will throw additional light on the subject.

All this requires much time and thought, but the results will richly repay the devout student. It is a search for gold and gems in which one's quest is never in vain.

The Mission Field

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WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

As Brother Lyon is kept quite busy this week helping to entertain his latest missionary, who I will just state is a little lion (Lyon) I will endeavor to give a few "echoes." We congratulate Brother and Sister Lyon, and

hope that the little Lyon may rapidly develop into a strong and courageous Lyon as his noble parentage gives us reason to expect, and that some day he may bear the mantle of his good father.

We are experiencing quite warm weather here now and we hear many people complaining, but this is the case in a greater or lesser degree whatever the weather may be. How much happier we all might be if we were always content with the weather, and satisfied to accept and to make the most of the situation whatever our lot may be! How many people have found premature years from worrying over things which they could not control. It is a well known fact that to worry is to injure the health, besides often making it very unpleasant for those with whom you must come in contact. It is a duty every one owes both to himself and to his friends to be cheerful. How many sad hearts could be made glad if they could only receive a cheering word and see a bright smile from those about them instead of often receiving just the reverse.

At this season of the year many people are leaving the cities for the sea shore and mountain resorts, to avoid the extreme heat of summer. This causes many of the congregations to grow small during the summer months and their interest in religious work seems to wane. We are glad to note, however, that in our little band of workers we find the work just as interesting and important in one season of the year as in another, and that our workers are faithful to their trust the year round.

We were favored last Sunday in having Rev. Henry J. Becker, D. D., of Dayton, O., missionary agent of the United Brethren in Christ, to preach to us, and he delivered us a very interesting and encouraging sermon. I am sure all of us felt it was good for us to be at the house of the Lord. May God bless the good brother in his work and give him souls for his hire. We hope to have the pleasure of hearing Brother Becker again for we believe he has the spirit of Christ.

We are now making special efforts to improve in our music, for we regard singing as a very important part of our worship. The improvement is already very noticeable although we have held only a few special meetings. All seem to be much interested.

Our young people are becoming quite active in the work here and we hope to soon show some good results.

We have received our Sunday-school literature for the third quarter and are very much pleased with the changes in the new Quarterly. Sunday-school literature is a very important factor in the Sunday-school, and we think the literature of the Brethren is of the very best. It is good enough for any Sunday-school.

Faternally,

R. I. GYRBER.

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